

# **News from Ed Markey**

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 7, 2002**

**CONTACT: Israel Klein or Ana Unruh**

**(202) 225-2836**

## **MARKEY, DINGELL: INDUSTRY ROYALTIES REQUIRED FOR USE OF PUBLIC RIVERS AND TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. --**

Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee announced legislation to protect rivers from environmental exploitation and the public from fiscal exploitation. The Federal Investment in Sustainable Hydropower Act (FISH Act) is designed to modernize the licensing process for dams while better protecting fish, wildlife and recreational and environmental interests. The Act also provides for a de-commissioning fund for dams that have been shut down to be removed from rivers.

Rep. Markey, "The hydroelectric industry and the President's national energy plan suggest that the re-licensing process is like 'swimming up stream.' We want to rectify that but without sacrificing the quality of the watershed or the habitat of fish and other wildlife."

"We are all concerned with balancing the need for healthy rivers with the need for clean, affordable hydroelectric power. New England has 208 FERC-licensed projects on 78 rivers. 32 of these projects are on 10 Massachusetts rivers. These are some of the oldest dams in the country and many have already navigated the re-licensing process from which we learned what is right and wrong with the process," Markey continued.

"Currently, projects under the jurisdiction of FERC are not required to ensure that once the project reaches the end of its useful lifetime or should the owner decide to abandon it there are sufficient funds for reclamation of the impacted area. Once the river is caught, there is no guarantee it will be released. We require the owners of nuclear power plants to maintain a decommissioning fund to retire nuclear power plants at the end of their useful life. Why should we let the hydro industry off the hook? There is precious little river habitat left. We should reclaim what we can when we can."

For more information, statements, and legislation, please see our website at [www.house.gov/markey](http://www.house.gov/markey).

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